Address at Presentati n of Pictur s to Appomattox Co.

The following is a condensed account of the address of Mr. N. R. Featherston at the recent presentation of portraits of former commonwealth attorneys:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen, I am very proud of the honor of being called upon to take part in these exercises. It is a pleasure and privilege, and also a responsibility. I deeply appreciate the kind invitation which have rendered possible this occasion. This county so worthy a son of the Old Dominion, and it is fitting that we should mark the event by adorning these walls with the excellent portraits of the county seat with which they are associated. Those who were pictures I hope to see hang on the near future.

At the formation of Appomattox County in 1845, we were extremely fortunate in having that distinguished Boocock family represented in that part of Appomattox which had been a part of Buckingham, and Thomas S. Bocock, whose intellectual and oratorical genius made him the first commonwealth's attorney. But the people soon realized that the mantle of commonwealth's attorney did not fit the intellectual stature of Mr. Bocock, and they, in 1847, wisely elected him United States House of Representatives.

In 1847 another distinguished son of Appomattox, Lewis Davidson Crenshaw, was elected commonwealth's attorney, and he, too, was a man of ability. When the dark clouds hung over this country in 1861, he was one of the most expressive men in this Secession movement. In 1861, Mr. Crenshaw was elected a member of the Confederate Congress, and was reelected from time to time, serving the next session of the legislature, and the next session of the Confederate Congress. His untimely death, in the midst of his career, was a great loss to the county and to the state.

Following Judge Crenshaw came another prominent family, Appomattox Courthouse's own Walter Staples Venable. Mr. Venable was elected commonwealth's attorney in 1861, and he ably filled the position until 1870, when he resigned to enter the army. He finished his career as a lawyer in Kansas City, Mo., returning to spend the last few years of his life among his friends and loved ones at his old home in this county. The unexpired term was filled by another able and distinguished son, David A. Christian, who afterwards, from 1889 to 1901 was the popular and efficient Judge of this county.

In 1883 another citizen, a resident of Pamplin, that courteous and affable gentleman, W. Courtney Franklin, was elected and served with ability until 1891.

In 1891 the prominent Flood family put forward a son for the office in the person of Hal D. Flood, who rightly won the reputation of being one of the best prosecuting attorneys in this state. He ably filled the office until 1900 when this Congressional District realized his great ability and elected him to Congress where he served with ability and distinction until his passing in 1921.

In 1900 another son of Appomattox, Samuel Lewis Ferguson, who came into this world and started on life's journey, not with the opportunities and luxuries of some others, but was truly one of the unbroken sons of toil, but of bright mind and unusual ambition and a determination to use every opportunity that came his way to secure and prepare, and after graduating from the University of Virginia in 1910, when the country entered the National During, he left his home and his friends and entered the service of his country. In 1919, the people of this county, Flood family, and the commonwealth attorney, Joel W. Flood. I never compliment anyone to his face, but I will say if Joel Flood were here I would say that he kept up the high standard that his very distinguished predecessors had established in this office, and I congratulate the people of this county that Appomattox county had been a part of Buckingham, and Thomas S. Bocock, whose intellectual and oratorical genius made him the first commonwealth's attorney. But the people soon realized that the mantle of commonwealth's attorney did not fit the intellectual stature of Mr. Bocock, and they, in 1847, wisely elected him United States House of Representatives.

In 1847 another distinguished son of Appomattox, Lewis Davidson Crenshaw, was elected commonwealth's attorney, and he, too, was a man of ability. When the dark clouds hung over this country in 1861, he was one of the most expressive men in this Secession movement. In 1861, Mr. Crenshaw was elected a member of the Confederate Congress, and was reelected from time to time, serving the next session of the legislature, and the next session of the Confederate Congress. His untimely death, in the midst of his career, was a great loss to the county and to the state.

Following Judge Crenshaw came another prominent family, Appomattox Courthouse's own Walter Staples Venable. Mr. Venable was elected commonwealth's attorney in 1861, and he ably filled the position until 1870, when he resigned to enter the army. He finished his career as a lawyer in Kansas City, Mo., returning to spend the last few years of his life among his friends and loved ones at his old home in this county. The unexpired term was filled by another able and distinguished son, David A. Christian, who afterwards, from 1889 to 1901 was the popular and efficient Judge of this county.

In 1883 another citizen, a resident of Pamplin, that courteous and affable gentleman, W. Courtney Franklin, was elected and served with ability until 1891.

In 1891 the prominent Flood family put forward a son for the office in the person of Hal D. Flood, who rightly won the reputation of being one of the best prosecuting attorneys in this state. He ably filled the office until 1900 when this Congressional District realized his great ability and elected him to Congress where he served with ability and distinction until his passing in 1921.

And now I come to our present pencil, excellent attorney for the commonwealth, Watkins M. Abbitt, who requests that his picture be put up until he has finished serving the office, and I hope when he has weighed so that he can put up until he has finished serving the office. I can only say as to the things I have said about him.

And now I take great pleasure in presenting to the citizens of Appomattox county the portrait of the attorney for the commonwealth, Hon. Watkins M. Abbitt, a member of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia from Appomattox.

And now I take great pleasure in presenting these great pictures of presenting these great pictures of presenting these great pictures of